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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : CASTELLACCI
PCT No : PCT/IT01/00387
Filed : March 21, 2002
For : A NEEDLE OF...
Dated : March 21, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. (AMENDED) The biopsy needle according to claim 1, characterized in that said deflection of said tab-like extension (5C; 105C; 205C; 305C; 405C) takes place beyond the elastic limit of the latter and is generally permanent, in such a way that at least said withholding element (5) is of the disposable type.

Please amend Claim 4 as follows: